# LESSON 12

Date: _____

When analyzing triads, the order in which the notes appear in the chord, from lowest to highest, has an impact on the sound and how the chord is named. Consider the following C+ chords. All of them can be reduced to a triad which is spelled C-E-G. However, they each have subtle differences in sound quality. Composers make use of these subtleties to add nuance to their music.
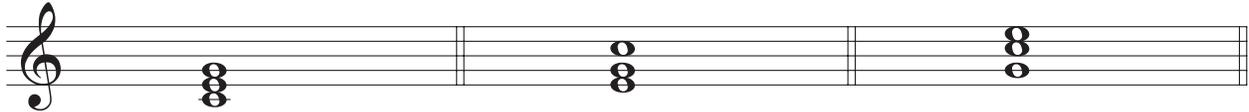
The principle of rearranging a triad into its different spellings is called inversion. When analyzing inversions, the bass note (lowest sounding note) of the triad is compared to the root of the triad. The difference between the bass note and the root note is described below. There are three different positions, or triad arrangements.

| Root Position	First Inversion	Second Inversion
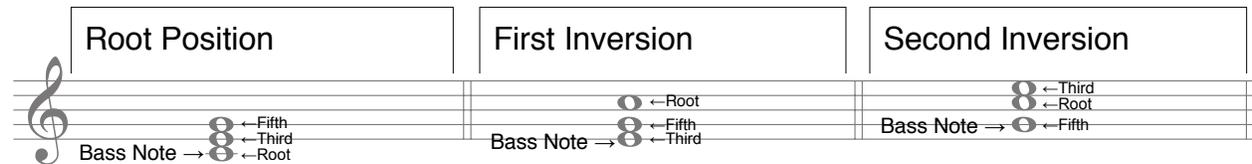
A triad is in root position when the three notes form consecutive thirds. It is only in this position that the bass note and the root note are the same.

To write a triad in first inversion, the root of the triad is transposed up one octave, leaving the third as the bass note.

To write a triad in second inversion, the root and third of the triad are transposed up one octave, leaving the fifth as the bass note.

To identify the position of a triad, reduce it to root position. In the reduced triad, shade the **bass** note of the given triad, then analyze the position: Root Position [if the shaded note is also the root]; 1st Inversion [if the shaded note is the third]; 2nd Inversion [if the shaded note is the fifth].

Root Position	First Inversion	Second Inversion
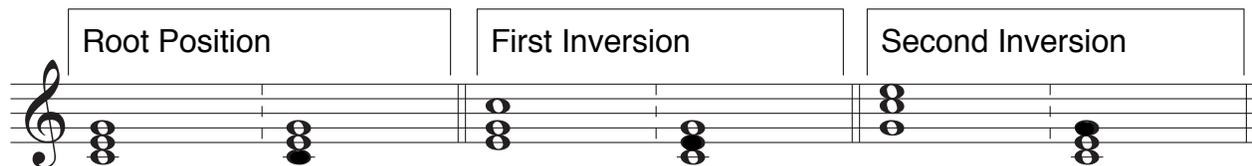
PRACTICE

1. Reduce each block of harmony to a root position triad, then identify the bass note of the given triad, and its root, third, and fifth.

Bass: __D__ __B__ __G__ __Eb__

5th: __F__ __B__ __D__ __Eb__

3rd: __D__ __G#__ __B__ __C__

R: __Bb__ __E__ __G__ __Ab__

Bass: __C#__ __Eb__ __D__

5th: __E__ __Bb__ __A__

3rd: __C#__ __G__ __F#__

R: __A__ __Eb__ __D__

2. Determine the position [R/1st/2nd] of each the following triads. To help you, reduce each triad to root position in the space provided, shade the lowest note of the given triad in the reduced triad.

Position: __1st__ __2nd__ __1st__ __R__

Position: __1st__ __2nd__ __R__ __1st__

3. Reduce each block of harmony to a triad in root position in the blank staff. Identify the quality (+/–) and position (R/1st/2nd) of the given triad.

Quality: — — —

Position: 2nd 2nd R

Quality: + — +

Position: 1st R 2nd